

by several small scales. The ventrals too are poorly developed, and often divided, but can usually be recognised as such. The postmaxillary teeth are usually 3, rarely 2 or 4. Figs. 19 and 20 are from the same specimen. In fig. 19 all the labials from the 3rd are divided, and the upper part of the 6th is confluent with the temporal. In fig. 20 the 3rd and 4th labials are normal and entire. Fig. 21 shows the same confluence of the temporal and 6th labial as the last specimen with, in addition, a confluence of the postoculars. In fig. 22 the labial is divided into three parts, the 4th is entire, and both parts of the 6th complete. Fig. 23 (from the same specimen as fig. 22) has the 3rd and 4th labials divided, and the upper part of the 6th partly confluent with the temporal. On both sides the postoculars are united.

PLATURUS LATICAUDATUS (Linnè).

The solitary specimen is from the Loo Choo Islands. It appears to be a very rare snake in Indian waters, the only Indian records I know of being the specimen in the Indian Museum from Tolly's Nullah, Calcutta, recorded by Sclater, and figured by Fayrer in his *Thanatophidia* (Plate XIX); and the specimen in the British Museum presented by General Hardwicke labelled "Bengal."

The specimen is very typical. The costals two headlengths behind the head are 19, in midbody 19, and two headlengths before the vent 17. In the reduction from 19 rows to 17, the 2nd and 3rd above the ventrals coalesce.

The ventrals are 241, anal divided, and subcaudals 40. The maxilla holds a single (dubiously 2) tooth.

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ALMOEA, *July* 1914.

No. XXXV.—OCCURRENCE OF THE SNAKE *MELANOPHIDIUM PUNCTATUM* IN THE WESTERN GHATS.

An interesting and valuable addition to our Society's reptile collection is a specimen of *Melanophidium punctatum* taken by Mr. S. H. Prater at Talwadi on the Goanese Frontier, a locality which extends its previously known habitat. The snake is rare. There are six specimens in the British Museum, all from the Travancore Hills, and I have had one from the Anamallays. It has never been recorded before north of the gap in the mountainous chain which occurs at Palghat. The scale rows two headlengths behind the head are 13, at midbody 15, and two headlengths before the vent 13. The ventrals are 197 and subcaudals 11 pairs. The specimen is very typical.

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ALMORA, *16th May* 1914.

No. XXXVI.—NOTES ON A GRAVID *ECHIS CARINATA*.

A specimen of this snake recently sent me from Lahore proved to be gravid. It was killed on the 18th June, and measured one foot two inches. In the abdomen were four fetuses in membrane, seemingly ready to be born. It was in an advanced state of putrefaction, and the one fetus capable of measurement was $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.